

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 21-29 are pending in this application.

**Restriction Requirement under 35 USC 121 and 372**

Claims 1-19 and 21-29 are subject to restriction as set forth in the Office Action. Responsive thereto, the election of Group I, claims 1-19 and 27, that is drawn to a method of inhibiting melanogenesis and for lightening the skin is affirmed. As required further by the Office Action for the election of Group I, the following species elections are made:

1<sup>st</sup> Species Election) a halogenated hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of component (a) which is a compound of formula (3);

2<sup>nd</sup> Species Election) the presence of a second skin-lightening substance of component (b) which is kojic acid; and

3<sup>rd</sup> Species Election) the presence of a UV-A or UV-B absorber of component (c) which is a compound of formula (5e).

The Applicants respectfully await consideration of the present claims on their merits. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



for

Mervin G. Wood, Ph. D. *TYLER STEVENSON*  
Agent for Applicants  
Reg. No. 56,711

Reg. No. 46388

Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation  
Patent Department  
540 White Plains Road  
P.O. Box 2005  
Tarrytown, NY 10591-9005  
Tel. (914) 785-7127  
Fax. (914) 785-7102

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